



**APPLY NOW FOR THE NASA EXPLORER SCHOOLS 2004 PROGRAM**  
**Applications are due by January 30, 2004**

Schools from across the country are eligible to apply on-line for an opportunity to partner with NASA in a program designed to bring engaging mathematics, science, and technology learning to educators, students, and families.

Each year, the NASA Explorer Schools (NES) program establishes a three-year partnership between NASA and 50 school teams, consisting of teachers and education administrators from diverse communities across the country. Last year's teams are from 30 states. Eighty percent of the schools are located in high poverty areas, with seventy-five percent representing predominantly minority communities.

While partnered with NASA, NES teams will acquire and use new teaching resources and technology tools for grades 4 - 9 using NASA's unique content, experts and other resources. Schools in the program are eligible to receive up to \$17,500 (pending continued funding) over the three-year period to purchase technology tools that support science and mathematics instruction.

**NASA Explorer Schools – Program Benefits and Objectives**

**NASA will partner with Schools** in a unique 3 year relationship for educators and students to become involved in the excitement of NASA research, discoveries, and missions by:

- participating in engaging NASA learning adventures and scientific challenges,
- solving design problems,
- conducting scientific collaborations and discussions, and
- collecting and using authentic data

**Benefits to Educators/Administrators:**

1. Participate in customized sustained professional development in the following:
  - science, technology, and mathematics content areas,
  - the use of inquiry-based teaching materials, and
  - educational technology-based teaching/learning tools including NASA content resources.
2. All-expenses-paid one-week professional development workshop at one of 10 NASA Field Centers.
3. \$500-stipend for full participation in the summer 2004 workshop and an additional \$500-stipend for implementation of the team's action plan during the 2004 school year.
4. A NASA Explorer School team consists of 4 educators who teach at the 4-9 grade level and a school administrator.

**Benefits to Students:**

1. Participate in authentic NASA science and technology experiences.
2. Apply NASA science, mathematics, and technology knowledge to real-world issues and problems.
3. Access unique NASA resources and materials.
4. Learn about NASA careers in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology.

**Benefits to Families:**

1. Increase involvement in the child's education.
2. Access interactive online NASA learning adventures and other special opportunities.

**Benefits to Schools:**

1. Be identified as a NASA Explorer School.
2. Partner with NASA to improve student learning in mathematics, science, and technology.
3. Receive grants up to \$10,000 to assist with the implementation of an action plan that addresses a local need in mathematics, science, or technology.
4. Develop associations with professional education organizations.

**NASA Explorer Schools Program Objectives**

- Increase student interest and participation in science, mathematics, and technology;
- Increase student knowledge about careers in science, mathematics, and technology;
- Increase student ability to apply science, mathematics, and technology concepts;
- Increase the active participation and professional growth of educators in science, mathematics, and technology;
- Increase family involvement in student learning;
- Increase the academic and technology infrastructure of K–12 schools with high populations of under-served students.

For detailed information about the NASA Explorer Schools program and instructions on how to apply, go to the NASA Explorer Schools website at: <http://explorerschools.nasa.gov/portal/site/nas/>

Once there, click on the blue "**Program Application**" field on the left side of the screen.

Scroll down the page and you will find information on: "**Program Details**":

- Become a NASA Explorer School
- Program Benefits
- Eligibility
- Team Composition
- How to Apply
- NASA Explorer Schools Brochure (.pdf)
- Current MOU (.pdf)

Just above these items on the webpage is a link called "**How to Apply**", which will provide you with the details needed to complete the online application once your team is formed. The NES application must be completed on-line in one session. Teams are encouraged to prepare essay responses in a word processing program that can be cut and pasted into the online application form. **Applications are due by January 30, 2004.**

**Criteria for Applying**

The NASA Explorer Schools program focuses on schools with a significant number of underserved students due to one or more of the following criteria:

- minority (greater than 50% African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native);
- economically disadvantaged (Title I or greater than 40% poverty rate);
- individuals with disabilities;
- geographic location (for example: rural, urban).

All team members must be U.S. citizens. All workshops and communications are in English.

For additional information about the NASA Explorer Schools program contact:

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**NASA Explorer Schools 2004 Workshop at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio  
(for teams from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin)  
NES 2004 Workshop Dates: July 17-24, 2004**